



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor
KARL J. DREHER
Director

February 10, 2003

To: Porter Creek Water District Advisory Committee

Re: Watermaster for 2003

Dear Advisory Committee Member:

Announcements for the upcoming meeting in March will be mailed soon. I wanted to give you advance notice about an important issue before the meeting. As you recall, appointment of the Watermaster for 2002 included two conditions. The Watermaster was to submit a report to this office discussing the irrigation season by the end of last November. He was also to submit a proposed budget for this year to this office by February 1, 2003.

Those conditions were not met. This was partly due to not being called to deliver water in 2002. The department will not be able to reappoint Mr. Berntsen as Watermaster this year. I talked to Hank today. He said he is comfortable with that decision. He also said he is willing to help train a new Watermaster for 2003. I think it would be good to take him up on the offer and to be prepared to pay him for his time. The district would be well served in the long run by doing this.

Please be prepared to elect a new Watermaster for 2003 at the meeting next month. The current salary is \$50 per day and current mileage reimbursement rate for state government is \$0.36 per mile (reduced slightly from prior years for some unknown reason). A Watermaster must be able to measure and deliver water within 24 hours of a call for water. The Watermaster must be able to keep accurate records and submit timely reports to this office as needed. Ideally a Watermaster is a neutral party, but sometimes that is hard to find in these situations. It is acceptable to elect a less than neutral party as your Watermaster, including someone who uses Porter Creek water if that scenario cannot be avoided. In any event, the Watermaster is expected to deliver water in a fair and timely manner based on the priority system.

ERRRR =
\$60/day
-SL

Hank has been willing to serve in a sometimes difficult position for over a decade, and his efforts are very much appreciated. I hope the district can make good use of Hank's familiarity with Porter Creek as a new person takes over.

Please let me know if you need more information in this regard before the March 5, 2003, meeting.

Sincerely,

Steve Lester
Water Rights Supervisor

CC: Hank Berntsen, 2002 Watermaster
Steve Dobson, 2002 Chairman